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School Committee Minutes 05-01-2001

ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
EMERGENCY MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 1, 2001
6:30 PM
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE – SIXTH FLOOR

Present: **Joani LaMachia, Chair** **Suzanne Owayda**
 David W. McKenna, Vice-Chair **Paul Schlichtman**
 Barbara Goodman **Martin Thrope**

Superintendent Kay Donovan, Director of Special Education Marilyn Bisbicos
Absent: Denis Sullivan

Chair, Joani LaMachia called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM. Ms. LaMachia stated that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss and vote on the issues relative to funding the new Peirce School. At the meeting with the finance committee on Saturday, April 28th, it was recommended that the school department absorb the additional costs between the bid and the actual cost to build the Peirce School. The Finance Committee made the following motion:

Supt. Donovan spoke to the issue and read the motion that she would like the School Committee to approve.

'Any debt service for the Peirce Elementary School arising from expenditures in excess of the amount exempted from the limitation of Proposition 2½ as voted in the Town election of April 1, 2000, or arising from that portion of the expenditures reimbursed at a rate less than the 63% by the state, or not funded by another Proposition 2½ debt exclusion or other funding sources outside the non-exempt Town Budget, shall in each year, be assigned to the School Department.

The Committee discussed the issue at length, emphasizing that the escalating construction costs are out of the control of the School Department and that this is a 'community problem' not a school problem. Members also asserted that the community voted for equity in seven schools and as a committee that trust needs to be maintained. Members also pointed out that it is vital to maintain good working relationships with other town committees and that includes no Saturday meetings on short notice.

On a motion by Ms. Goodman and seconded by Mr. McKenna it was

Voted to accept the recommendation on Peirce School Funding as presented by Supt. Donovan.

Roll Call: Unanimous

On a motion by Ms. Goodman and seconded by Mr. McKenna it was

Voted to review, analyze and update all available space, any demographic data, and any other related information that could affect the capacity of the remaining building projects. RC: Unanimous

On a motion by Ms. Goodman and seconded by Mr. Schlichtman it was

Voted that the School Committee work with all state, local officials, and groups (i.e. MASC) to look at reimbursement formulas relative to school construction projects and including offering a resolution for consideration at the next MASC delegate meeting. RC: Unanimous

On a motion by Mr. Thrope and seconded by Mr. McKenna it was

Voted that the School Committee undertakes a thorough review of all programs and budgets, to search for opportunities to absorb the additional budget burden. 5 yes 1 no (Ms. Goodman-no)

On a motion by Mr. Thrope and seconded by Mr. McKenna it was

Voted to approve the music field trip to Quebec. Unanimous

Ms. LaMachia stated that she would support the motion but in the future this is something that is unacceptable

On a motion by Mr. McKenna and seconded by Mr. Thrope it was

Voted that future field trips will not be allowed without approval consistent with School Committee policy. Unanimous

On motion made and seconded it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:30 PM